

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04815 032357Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 EUR-25 /163 W

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O R 032319Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6021

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA

RUESBJJANAMEMDDSSY BUENOS AIRES 2839

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SREF, UN

SUBJ: HFTZWQIL#IN CHILE

1. THIS AFTERNOON I MET WITH GIANCINTO MASELLI OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM). MASELLI ARRIVED IN CHILE YESTERDAY AND STATES THAT HIS VISIT IS A RESULT OF UNHCR EFFORTS TO ENLIST ICEM ASSISTANCE IN HELPING TO MOVE NON-CHILEAN REFUGEES FROM CHILE TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ICEM IS PREPARED TO DO.

2. MASELLI SAID THAT ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP THERE ARE ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN SAFEHAENS WHO WILL SOON BE READY TO MOVE. CHILEAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AID TO REFUGEES OFFICIAL HAS TOLD MASELLI THAT ONCE THE FIRST 1,000 ARE TRANSPORTED FROM CHILE, AS MANY AS 10,000 MORE MIGHT OVERCOME THEIR SUSPICION OF THE GOC AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND ASK FOR RESETTLEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04815 032357Z

3. ACCORDING TO MASELLI TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN RESETTLEMENT ENDEAVORUS WILL BE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND FINDING COUNTRIES WILLING TO TAKE THE REFUGEES. HE STATED THAT THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES MIGHT POSSIBLY DONATE TO A SPECIAL FUND FOR CHILEAN REFUGEES AND PERHAPS EVEN ACCEPT A SMALL NUMBER FOR RESETTLEMENT.

4. THE UNHCR IS TRYING TO PLACE REFUGEES IN PERU, ARGENTINA, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, BUT THE ENTRANCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM CHILE, MANY PRESUMED TO HAVE "REVOLUTIONARY" TIES, PRESENTS GRAVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN EACH OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

5. MASELLI WAS INTERESTED IN MY ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. HE STATED THAT UNHCR REP HASSELMAN WITH WHOM HE SPOKE YESTERDAY BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA HAD BEEN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS AND HAD INDICATED THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS FAR FROM CALM BECAUSE THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF A SPLIT WITHIN THE RULING JUNTA WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO MILITARY FORCES BATTLING EACH OTHER. MASELLI ALSO STATED THAT MASELMAN WAS DEPRESSED OVER DEATH OF ONE REFUGEE WHOM HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO HELP LEAVE COUNTRY AND WHOM HE THOUGHT MAY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.

6. COMMENT: MASELLI MAY HAVE MISINTERPRETED HASSELMAN'S VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATION. WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT HASSELMAN'S OPINIONS CONCERNING INTRA-JUNTA SPLIT AND INTERNECINE BATTLE (ALTHOUGH SOME DIFFERENCES OVER POLICY UNDOUBTEDLY ARE DEVELOPING)

DAVIS

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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